

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 EB-08 NSCE-00 ACDA-12 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 /106 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WILLIAMBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----079739 050456Z /14

O 042257Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - NOVEMBER 4

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR NOVEMBER 4,
1977. FYI ONLY OFFICER AT TODAY'S BRIEFING WAS JOHN
TRATTNER.

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Q. DURING THE OCTOBER 6TH, 1976 TV DEBATE WITH PRESIDENT
FORD, GOVERNOR CARTER SAID THAT HE WOULD REGARD AN
ARAB OIL BOYCOTT AS, IN HIS WORDS, "AN ECONOMIC DECLARA-
TION OF WAR, AND I WOULD RESPOND INSTANTLY AND IN
KIND. I WOULD NOT SHIP THAT ARAB COUNTRY ANYTHING AND NO
WEAPONS, NO SPARE PARTS FOR WEAPONS, NO OIL-DRILLING RIGS,
NO OILPIPES, NO NOTHING." MY QUESTION IS: IS THIS
PROMISE NOW INOPERATIVE OR IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT
READY, IN THE EVENT OF A OIL BOYCOTT, TO CARRY OUT WHAT
MR. CARTER HAS SAID, IN VIEW OF HIS OTHER PROMISE: "I'LL
NEVER MISLEAD YOU?"

A. I THINK THAT'S A QUESTION THAT YOU WOULD BE BEST
ADVISED TO ADDRESS TO THE PRESIDENT OR TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. I FULLY PLAN TO DO THAT. WHAT I'M ASKING IS THE

STATE DEPARTMENT. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY
PROGRAM WHATSOEVER TO CARRY OUT MR. CARTER'S CAMPAIGN
PROMISE?

A. FIRST OF ALL, I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE QUOTE THAT YOU
HAVE REFERS TO SPECIFICALLY. BUT I'M NOT AWARE WE HAVE
ANY PLAN.

Q. WELL, HE REFERS TO THIS AS AN ARAB OIL BOYCOTT. IT
WAS TELEVISED TO MANY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE. I PRESUME

YOU MUST HAVE LISTENED TO IT. HE SPOKE THIS AND HE SAID THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN ARAB OIL BOYCOTT THAT THERE WILL BE AN ECONOMIC DECLARATION OF WAR AND WE WILL SEND THEM NOTHING. I PRESUME THAT MEANS FOOD, EVERYTHING.

NOW, THE QUESTION IS, VERY SIMPLY: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNOW OF ANY PROGRAM OR IS THERE ANY PREPARATION TO CARRY OUT WHAT "I'LL NEVER MISLEAD YOU" PROMISED TO DO?
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A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT ANY PLAN EXISTS.

Q. OUT OF CAIRO THIS MORNING IT WAS REPORTED THAT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT HAS CONCLUDED THAT THERE CANNOT BE A GENEVA CONFERENCE BY DECEMBER AND IS NOW CONCENTRATING ON THE PROSPECT OF HAVING ONE IN THE SPRING. THE FIRST QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT ACCORDS WITH THAT?

SECONDLY, HE HAS CALLED FOR A WORKING COMMITTEE TO PREPARE THE TOPICS THAT ARE TO BE DISCUSSED AND THAT ARE TO BE AGREED UPON WITH THE ARAB STATES AND THE UNITED STATES. AND IN RELATION TO THAT THERE IS ALSO A REPORT FROM CAIRO THAT, MORE SPECIFICALLY, PRESIDENT SADAT HAS PROPOSED THAT THERE BE PROXIMITY TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB NATIONS WITH SECRETARY VANCE SERVING AS THE INTERMEDIARY, PROBABLY IN A NEUTRAL WORLD CAPITAL.

ON THOSE THREE POINTS, CAN YOU AMPLIFY ANY ONE OF THEM?

A. YES. ON THE FIRST ONE, ABOUT MR. SADAT'S SUGGESTION OF DELAYING THE CONFERENCE UNTIL SPRING, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY SUCH SUGGESTION. ALL THE PARTIES HAVE AGREED, AS YOU KNOW, TO DIRECT THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD TRYING TO RECONVENE GENEVA BY THE YEAR'S END, AND THAT REMAINS THE CASE.

A. THE ANSWER TO YOUR NEXT QUESTION HAS GOT TO BE THAT

WE ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. AND WHILE THOSE EFFORTS CONTINUE I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS
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OF ANY OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

Q. WELL, I'M SPECIFICALLY ASKING YOU NOT ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS THEMSELVES BUT ABOUT A PROCEDURAL ACTION WHICH HE HAS SAID PUBLICLY THAT HE HAS PROPOSED -- NAMELY

A WORKING COMMITTEE.

A. WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME ABOUT WHAT HE SAID? ARE YOU ASKING ME TO COMMENT ON IT?

A. HAS THE UNITED STATES RECEIVED SUCH A PROPOSAL FROM EGYPT?

A. AS I SAID, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY SUGGESTION LIKE THAT.

Q. PROXIMITY TALKS?

A. THE SAME ANSWER.

Q. YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY SUCH SUGGESTION ABOUT A WORKING GROUP OR A NEW ROUND OF PROXIMITY TALKS?

A. CORRECT.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT? EVEN IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING, WHAT'S YOUR REACTION? ISRAEL HAS ALREADY REACTED FAVORABLY TO THE PROXIMITY TALKS. CAN YOU REACT?

A. I JUST SAID--ITS THE SAME ANSWER WE HAVE TO GIVE YOU EVERY TIME--THAT WE'RE ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. AND WHILE THAT IS GOING ON, PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PARTIES INVOLVED--LEADERS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED OR ANYBODY ELSE--ARE NOT GOING TO DRAW COMMENT FROM US. NOW, THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY --
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IF IT HELPS YOU ANY -- THE SECRETARY SAID AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE SOMETHING ON THE QUESTION OF DELAYING THE CONFERENCE; AND I WOULD REFER YOU BACK TO THAT AS OUR VIEW OF IT. HE SAID, "WE'RE CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR A CONFERENCE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. WE STILL HAVE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME, AND OUR OBJECTIVE REMAINS ACHIEVING THE CONFERENCE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

Q. WELL, LET ME FOLLOW THAT WITH JUST ONE REMAINING FACTOR. WOULD THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN A NEW ROUND OF PROXIMITY TALKS BETWEEN THE ARAB NATIONS AND ISRAEL?

A. I'M AFRAID I'M IN THE SAME POSITION.

Q. BUT IF THE ARABS AND ISRAEL AGREE TO HAVE PROXIMITY TALKS -- WOULD THE UNITED STATES PREVENT THEM FROM DOING THAT?

A. AGAIN, I'M JUST NOT GOING TO ENGAGE IN COMMENT OR SPECULATION ABOUT WHAT WE WOULD OR WOULD NOT DO AS A RESULT OF ACTIONS BY OTHER PARTIES. IT'S JUST NOT A POSSIBILITY, I'M SORRY.

Q. WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS FOR HAVING A GENEVA CONFERENCE BY THE END OF THE YEAR?

A. WELL, I THINK I JUST READ YOU OR QUOTED YOU WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO. THAT'S WHERE WE UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE.

Q. SO YOU'RE CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR IT, BUT THAT DOESN'T DO WHAT YOU THINK -- WHETHER OR NOT YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN DO IT.

A. WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO TAKE YOU BEYOND THAT ON THE RECORD OR ON ANY OTHER BASIS BEYOND WHAT OTHER BASES YOU ALREADY HAVE.

Q. CAN YOU CHECK AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON TO SEE IF YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN A LATER REPORT FROM CAIRO OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

A. SURE.

Q. COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO ME FOR WHAT REASON THE ARABS MIGHT USE ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO ON THE UNITED STATES?

A. WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE ARAB COUNTRIES THAT. I DON'T REALLY PRETEND TO SPEAK FOR THEM.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A FIGURE ON THE ISRAELI PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN IN ETHIOPIA, AT LEAST IN THE SUMMER?

A. I BELIEVE WE WERE ASKED THAT QUESTION BEFORE. THE ONLY THING I HAVE IS THAT ON THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI SERVICING, U.S. MADE JET FIGHTERS IN ETHIOPIA, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO THAT EFFECT.

Q. THIS MORNING OVER ABC TELEVISION NETWORK A COMMENTATOR REPORTED THAT HIS SOURCES ASSURED HIM THAT THE UNITED STATES PRESSURED THE LIBERIANS INTO CO-SPONSORING THE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ESSENTIALLY ISRAEL FOR ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK UNCLASSIFIED

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AND HE SAID THAT AMERICAN DIPLOMATS BROUGHT QUIET PRESSURE ON OTHER NATIONS TO VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION AGAINST ISRAEL.

HE ALSO REPORTED THAT ONE SPOKESMAN AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT CALLED THE STORY "SHEER BALONEY." HE DIDN'T IDENTIFY THE SPOKESMAN. ARE YOU THE SPOKESMAN?

A. I AM NOT.

Q. DO WE STILL REGARD IT AS "SHEER BALONEY?"

A. THE CLAIM IS NONSENSE AND IF HE PREFERRED TO FLAVOR IT, I COULD CALL IT BALONEY FOR YOU. WE TOLD THE STAFF OF THE PERSON THAT YOU MENTIONED WHEN THEY ASKED US ABOUT THE STORY, WE TOLD THEM IT WAS NONSENSE.

Q. WE HAVE THE TRANSCRIPT. ACTUALLY IT WAS JACK ANDERSON, IT WASN'T ABC, AND IT SAID: "MY SOURCES SAY THAT BEHIND THE SCENE OF THE UNITED STATES WASN'T NEUTRAL AT ALL. AMERICAN DIPLOMATS BROUGHT QUIET PRESSURE ON OTHER NATIONS TO VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION AND AGAINST ISRAEL. IS THAT BALONEY, THAT YOU BROUGHT QUIET PRESSURE?

A. YES, SIR.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ON DR. KISSINGER'S REMARKS ON CRITICISM OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY?

A. NO. I DON'T REALLY. THE PRESIDENT PRESENTED OUR VIEWS ON THE QUESTION THAT THE FORMER SECRETARY REFERRED UNCLASSIFIED

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TO AND I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO THAT. THE PRESIDENT SAID WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE A SOLUTION

TO THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IN A FRAMEWORK THAT DOES NOT THREATEN THE INTERESTS OF ANY OF THE CONCERNED PARTIES, YET RESPECTS THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. HE SAID THE NATIONS INVOLVED MUST NEGOTIATE THE SETTLEMENT, BUT WE OURSELVES DO NOT PREFER AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK. I DON'T HAVE ANY DIRECT COMMENT ON DR. KISSINGER'S WORDS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON HIS SPEAKING OUT?

A. NO.

VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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